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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 29 April 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS TO SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED BODIES OF THE COUNCIL AND CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS (continued)

Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1993/L.1/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Burundi, Guinea, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were endorsed candidates, and Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Morocco were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by African States. India, Japan and Malaysia were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States. Belarus and Bulgaria were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States. Barbados, Mexico and Venezuela were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States. Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

Mr. BIZIMANA (Observer for Rwanda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that he endorsed the candidacies of Burundi, Guinea, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr. ADALA (Observer for Kenya) said that Kenya, as the country where the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme was located, was pleased to have been proposed as a candidate. However, for the sake of regional unity, it had decided to withdraw its candidacy.

Mr. AWOONOR (Observer for Ghana) said that Ghana would withdraw its candidacy for the sake of regional solidarity.

Mr. ROKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that Madagascar, which had been elected to the Commission on Sustainable Development for one year in February, had wished to be a member of the Commission for three years, and had therefore submitted its candidacy. However, it would withdraw it in favour of the candidates proposed by the Group of African States.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group of Asian States, the Group of Western European and other States and the Group of Eastern European States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect four members from the Group of African States by secret ballot, since there were more candidates than vacancies.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Rotheiser (Austria) and Mr. Wing Xiholong (China) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27

Number of votes obtained:

United Republic of Tanzania	40
Morocco	38
Guinea	36
Uganda	35
Ethiopia	31
Burundi	27
Ghana	1
Angola	1

Having obtained the required majority, Guinea, Morocco, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

Commission on Transnational Corporations (E/1993/L.3)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Zambia was the only candidate for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were the only two candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Bulgaria and the Czech Republic were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Belgium and Italy were the only candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed by each Group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled by those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the candidates proposed by those Groups, and postpone to a later stage the election of three members from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, since there were no candidates for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1995, or for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1993 - elections for which had been postponed from previous sessions - he would take it that the Council wished to postpone the elections until a later stage.

It was so decided.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/1993/L.4)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 18 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia were candidates for the five vacancies to be filled by African States; China, Lebanon and Thailand were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Russian Federation was a candidate for the vacancy to be filled by Eastern European States; Brazil and Mexico were the only candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and

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Caribbean States; and France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey were candidates for the six vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each Group was equal to, and in the case of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, less than, the number of vacancies in those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the States whose names had just been read out, and to postpone until a later stage the election of a member of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, since there were no candidates for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993, he would take it that the Council wished to postpone the election until a later stage.

It was so decided.

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1991/19 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to appoint three members of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to fill the vacancies that would arise on 30 July 1993 upon the expiration of the terms of three members.

The Board of Trustees was composed of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Council with due regard to the fact that the Institute and its work were funded from voluntary contributions and to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Board served in their individual capacities for a term of three years and were eligible for reappointment by the Council for one further term.

Since there was only one candidate for the single vacancy to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States, he would take it that the Council wished to elect her by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States and the Group of Asian States was greater than the number of vacancies to be filled, he would invite the Council to elect by secret

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ballot one member from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Barac (Romania) and Ms. Nicolaisen (Norway) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27

Number of votes obtained:

African States

Noëli Kangoye (Burkina Faso)	41
Mamolete Pitso (Lesotho)	5
Meenakshi Seetulsingh (Mauritius) .	7

Asian States

Sonia Ibrahim Atiyah (Lebanon)	25
Amara Pongsapich (Thailand)	27

Having obtained the required majority, Noëli Kangoye (Burkina Faso) and Amara Pongsapich (Thailand) were elected members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, representing the Group of African States and the Group of Asian States, respectively, for a term beginning on 30 June 1993.

Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/1993/L.5)

The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Council was required to nominate 20 members for election by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session to fill the vacancies in the Committee that would occur on 31 December 1993. The term was three years beginning on 1 January 1994.

Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Cameroon, the Comoros, the Congo and Senegal were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and Pakistan were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine were candidates for the three vacancies

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to be filled by Eastern European States; Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom were candidates for the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

The PRESIDENT noted that the number of candidates from the Eastern European States was greater than the number of vacancies to be filled by that Group and recalled that, in similar situations in the past, the Council had decided to nominate all the candidates from each Group, and to invite the General Assembly to elect the required number of members for each Group. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate all the candidates for election by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

It was so decided.

World Food Council (E/1993/L.6)

The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council was required to nominate 12 members for election by the Assembly at its forty-eighth session to fill the vacancies in the World Food Council that would occur on 31 December 1993. The term was three years, beginning on 1 January 1994.

Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Liberia, Malawi and the Sudan were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh, China and Pakistan were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; there were no candidates for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil and Mexico were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Turkey and the United States of America were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each Group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled from the Groups, in accordance with the Council's past practice in similar situations, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate all the candidates from the Groups for the General Assembly to elect the required number of members for each Group.

It was so decided.

Elections postponed from previous sessions

Commission for Science and Technology for Development

The PRESIDENT said that elections to fill vacancies from the Group of Western European and other States had been postponed from previous sessions. The term would begin on the date of the election. The secretariat had been informed that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Ireland. Since there were no other candidates, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Ireland to the Commission and to postpone to a later date the election of three members of the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided.

Confirmations

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of members of the Council to document E/1993/3/Add.1, which contained the names of the representatives of the functional commissions submitted since the previous session for confirmation by the Council. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the candidates endorsed in that document.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1993/25, E/1993/15/Rev.1, E/1993/41)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session (E/1993/25). In chapter I, section A, of the report, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session and provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission". The draft decision had no implications whatsoever for the programme budget. He would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue its consideration of agenda item 5, "Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development". In chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1993/25), the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision

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on its organizational session and provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission. The draft decision had no implications whatsoever for the programme budget, and he would take it that the Council wished to adopt it.

It was so decided.

Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council), referring to the decision entitled "Issues relating to the future work of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section C, paragraph 3 of the report of the Commission (E/1993/25), said that, in accordance with the decision, the Commission at its future sessions would hold two meetings simultaneously which would require interpretation. If the Council endorsed that decision and it was implemented during the first substantive session in 1993, a total of $87,300 would be required. That estimate was based on the assumption that the cost of the required conference services would not be met from current allocations under the programme budget. The established practice suggested that the proposed decision would not require additional resources under section 41 of the programme budget for the 1992-1993 biennium.

The PRESIDENT said that he further understood that it had been agreed that the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development was composed of a Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom would also serve as Rapporteur. He would take it that the Council wished to adopt that decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider document E/1993/15/Rev.1, which contained the report of the Secretary-General on the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development.

Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, with reference to document E/1993/15/Rev.1, he considered that it was an opportune time to reaffirm the general principle established in General Assembly resolution 47/191 that the main task of the High-level Advisory Board was to provide expert advice to the Secretary-General; it was only through him, or under his responsibility and with his approval that the advice of the Board could be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Council and the General Assembly. The Board should limit itself to providing advice to the Secretary-General, who had responsibility for formulating proposals and recommendations to intergovernmental bodies.

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

In addition, the report suggested the possibility that, at the Commission's request, members of the Board could participate in meetings of the Commission, particularly in its high-level meetings. More clarification on the scope of that proposal was needed in order to facilitate consideration of the question.

The observations made by the Board should be incorporated in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General and should not be transmitted as annexes or informative notes in the reports. In that way, intergovernmental bodies could focus their attention on the consideration of unified proposals rather than dispersed documents.

The Group of 77 and China wished to emphatically express their complete disagreement with any proposal aimed at subsuming the functions of the Committee for Development Planning under those of the High-level Advisory Board. In fact, the functions of the Board were limited to matters of sustainable development, while the functions of the Committee were broader and permitted direct interaction with intergovernmental bodies, and in particular with the Economic and Social Council.

The Board was a body whose only function was to provide advice to the Secretary-General. Consequently, if the proposal was based on the assumption that the Committee for Development Planning would be abolished, for the reasons which he had just given, the situation would have to be reassessed.

Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that the European Economic Community (EEC) had carefully considered the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the item now before the Council. Briefly reviewing the draft resolution which had been elaborated in order to ensure the efficient implementation of the proposals, he noted that EEC considered that it should assume the functions of the Committee for Development Planning, in addition to its own functions, and that, in the discharge of its responsibility, it should take into account the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Moreover, it recommended that members of the Board should be elected on the basis of the same criteria applied to members of the Committee for Development Planning and that their term should be for five years.

Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that she valued the contribution which the High-level Advisory Board could make to the work of the Secretary-General, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council and to other relevant intergovernmental bodies. She supported, in particular, the

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proposed composition of the Board, which would encompass various disciplines related to environment and development. She was confident that institutional links would be established between the Board and the Commission on Sustainable Development, which could include a participatory role.

As in the case of the Advisory Board, the roster of experts should reflect a broad representation which included not only scientists and technicians, but also policy experts and specialists representing various groups. Lastly, the report of the Secretary-General did not specify who could request the elaboration of studies and reports by the experts for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development or by the Economic and Social Council. It clearly stated that the Commission on Sustainable Development could request the experts to prepare such reports as were necessary to provide analytical support for the review of the issues raised by the Commission in Agenda 21.

Mr. BABA (Uganda) said that he supported the comments made by the delegate of Colombia, particularly with regard to paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report. It was surprising that the Committee for Development Planning, which had been established by the Economic and Social Council, could be subsumed by the Board, which had been created by the Commission and which was a subsidiary body of the Council. The question should be considered very carefully before a decision was taken.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the chairmen and coordinators of the regional groups should meet in order to determine if there were any bases for agreement on a consensus solution and they should report to the President on the matter.

With regard to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, the great number of replies received to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretary-General had prevented the secretariat from being able to prepare in a timely manner a document on the subject. Consequently, it would be necessary to have another meeting during the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council to consider the list of non-governmental organizations which could participate in the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.